



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL PETER A. COSTELLO III

Colonel Peter A. Costello III is commander, 42nd Air Base Wing, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. He is responsible for overseeing all functions on Maxwell and Gunter Annex that directly support Air University, 908th Airlift Wing, Operations and Sustainment Systems Group, over 30 tenant units and the 12,700 active duty, reserve, civilian and contractor personnel assigned.

Colonel Costello was commissioned in May 1981 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. His first assignment was at Royal Air Force Base Bentwaters, United Kingdom, as an A-10 pilot. Following this assignment, he became a T-38 instructor pilot at the Euro – NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program at Sheppard AFB, Texas. He has worked in several F-16 fighter squadrons and performed a variety of duties, ranging from instructor pilot and standardization and evaluation examiner to operations officer. Colonel Costello also performed duties as Special Assistant to NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic and the Commander in Chief, United States Atlantic Command. He was commander of the 8th Operations Support Squadron, Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea. Colonel Costello was also a National Security Fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government with a follow-on assignment as the Chief, Planning and Integration Branch, Joint Requirements Division, J-8, on the Joint Staff in Washington, D.C. Prior to becoming the 42nd Air Base Wing's commander, Colonel Costello was the vice commander of the 56th Fighter Wing at Luke AFB, Ariz., the largest fighter wing in the world. Colonel Costello flew combat missions in the F-16 in support of Operations Desert Storm and Southern Watch. He also participated in the United Nation's occupation of Haiti and the formation of the NATO Partnership for Peace program with former Warsaw Pact countries.



EDUCATION

- 1981 Bachelor of Science in Military History, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 1986 Distinguished Graduate, Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1986 Master of Science in International Relations, Troy State University, Ala.
- 1994 Distinguished Graduate, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1995 Master of Science, School of Advanced Airpower Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1997 Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.
- 2002 National Security Fellow, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1981 - August 1982, student, undergraduate pilot training, Reese AFB, Texas
2. September 1982 - November 1982, Fighter Lead-In Training at Holloman AFB, N.M.

3. December 1982 - April 1983, student, A-10 pilot, 355th Tactical Fighter Wing, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
4. May 1983 - April 1985, A-10 pilot, 511th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Royal Air Force Bentwaters AB, United Kingdom
5. May 1985 - April 1987, assistant operations officer and A-10 instructor pilot, Detachment 1, 81st Tactical Fighter Wing, Sembach AB, Germany
6. May 1987 - October 1990, flight commander and T-38 instructor pilot, Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, 80th Flying Training Wing, Sheppard AFB, Texas
7. December 1990 - March 1991, student, F-16 pilot, 311th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, Luke AFB, Ariz.
8. April 1991 - June 1993, flight commander, assistant operations officer, F-16 instructor pilot, 68th Fighter squadron, Moody AFB, Ga.
9. August 1993 - June 1994, student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
10. July 1994 - June 1995, student, School of Advanced Airpower Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
11. July 1995 - March 1998, special assistant to NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic and Commander-in-Chief, United States Atlantic Command, Norfolk, Va.
12. April 1998 - June 2000, assistant operations officer, 55th Fighter Squadron; current operations flight commander, 20th Operations Support Squadron, operations officer, 77th Fighter Squadron; Shaw AFB, S.C.
13. June 2000 - June 2001, commander, 8th Operations Support Squadron, Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea
14. July 2001 - June 2002, National Security Fellow, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
15. June 2002 - June 2003, chief, Planning and Integration Branch, Joint Requirements Division, Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment Directorate, J-8, the Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.
16. July 2003 - July 2005, vice commander, 56th Fighter Wing, Luke AFB, Ariz
17. July 2005 - Present, commander, 42d Air Base Wing, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command pilot

Flying hours: More than 3,000 hours

Aircraft flown: T-37, T-38, A-10, and F-16

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit

Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Air Force Commendation Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 27, 1981

First Lieutenant May 27, 1983

Captain May 27, 1985

Major October 1, 1994

Lieutenant Colonel January 1, 1998

Colonel May 1, 2003

(Current as of July 2005)